

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01992 081431Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /070 W

----- 042754

R 081325Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4370

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1992

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR, US, XM

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO LA CRITICISM OF US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT

REF: BRASILIA 1687

SUMMARY: WHILE GOB HAS KEPT SILENT ON LA CRITICISM OF RECENT
US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT, BRAZILIAN PRESS COMMENT HAS SCORED
MANIFESTATIONS OF ENVY AND INFERIORITY COMPLEX AND NOTED THAT
SUCH FEELINGS ARE PRICE OF BRAZIL'S RISE TO POWER. SUCH
COMMENT REFLECTS GENERAL ATTITUDE HERE: BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS,
WHILE SEEKING AS MATTER OF CONSCIOUS POLICY TO ALLAY OTHER
COUNTRIES' SUSPICION AND RESENTMENT, NEVERTHELESS TEND TO
CONSIDER THESE FEELINGS PARTLY ILL-BASED AND PARTLY
INEVITABLE, AND SOMETIMES APPEAR RESIGNED--AND NOT
UNCOMFORTABLY SO--TO THEIR PERSISTENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL AND AS CONFIRMED DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 01992 081431Z

BY FONMIN SILVEIRA, FOREIGN MINISTRY DETERMINATION HAS

BEEN NOT RPT NOT TO REACT TO OR COMMENT ON LATIN AMERICAN CRITICISM OF US-BRAZIL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU). BRAZILIAN PRESS, ON OTHER HAND, HAS BOTH REPORTED AND COMMENTED ON THAT CRITICISM.

2. SWINGING HARD, RIO'S IMPORTANT JORNAL DO BRASIL (JB) BEGAN FEB 25 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "TOUCHY NEIGHBORS" WITH REFERENCES TO "COLONIALIST COMPLEXES" AND "WOUNDED PRIDE." QUOTING LOPEZ MICHELSEN'S REMARK ABOUT KNEELING, EDITORIAL ASKED, "DID SOME POTENTATE BY CHANCE REQUEST SUCH A GESTURE OF HIS COUNTRY OR REQUIRE IT OF HIM?." SIMILARLY, QUOTE OF LOPEZ PORTILLO'S STATEMENT THAT MEXICO IS NOT BRAZIL WAS FOLLOWED BY CAUSTIC "ADMIRABLE GEOGRAPHY LESSON." DECLARING THAT "LATIN AMERICA IS HANDING ITSELF OVER TO A RIDICULOUS BACKYARD DISPUTE," JB ADDED "MR. HENRY KISSINGER AT THIS POINT MUST BE ENJOYING HIMSELF, PEEKING OVER THE WALL, CERTAIN THAT WITH A FEW RHETORICAL PHRASES HE SOWED THE DISCORD ALREADY LATENT AMONG GREAT POWERS." AFTER ASSERTING THAT IF COLOMBIA (OR VENEZUELA OR MEXICO) INTENDS TO LEAD LATIN AMERICA IT SHOULD DO SO, EDITORIAL CONCLUDED "LET THEM TAKE ON, THUS, THOSE MARKS OF GREATNESS, WHICH IS ONE WAY OF DISGUIISING AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX PERSISTENT EVEN AMONG NEIGHBORS OF THE SAME AREA AND WITH THE SAME PROBLEMS."

3. IN LEAD EDITORIAL SAME DAY, PRESTIGIOUS ESTADO DE SAO PAULO TOOK MORE MEASURED STANCE, NOTING BASIC FACTS OF BRAZIL'S SIZE AND POPULATION AND ADDING THAT COUNTRY HAD TRANSFORMED ITSELF FROM MONOCULTURE TO MODERN, INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETY WHILE OTHER LA NATIONS WITH POTENTIAL HAD PROBLEMS. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, "NO, NO ONE INTENDS TO SEE PEOPLES IN A STATE OF GENUFLECTION OR GRATEFUL FOR EXCLUSIVE FAVORS: CA VA SANS DIRE, ANY STATESMAN WOULD SAY THAT DID NOT LET HIMSELF BE INFLUENCED, IN THE POLITICET ART OF GOVERNING, BY THAT CHARACTERISTIC FORM OF MACHISMO WHICH IS THE BULLFIGHTING ART. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THIS TYPE OF REACTION, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE PRICE OF THE ASCENT OF BRAZIL TO THE STATUS OF WORLD POWER."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 01992 081431Z

4. ESTADO SAME DAY RAN STORY QUOTING OPINION OF "SOME OBSERVERS" THAT MESSAGE SENDING SELA AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS FOR RATIFICATION CONSTITUTED "INDIRECT REPLY" TO LA CRITICISMS OF MOU. THREE DAYS LATER (FEB 28), ESTADO QUOTED SELA PERMSEC MONCAYO THAT "NO LA COUNTRY WILL COME OUT AHEAD IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US" AND CALLED IT "A DIRECT REFERENCE" TO THE MOU.

5. UNDER HEADLINE "IN THE SILENCE, THE NEW TACTIC,"
FOLHA DE SAO PAULO'S WELL-CONNECTED DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
FLAVIO SALLES REVIEWED BRAZILIAN REACTION TO LA REACTION
TO STATEMENT OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, CALLING IT "A
VERITABLE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN" IN WHICH THEN-PRESIDENT
MEDICI GAVE SPEECHES DISAVOWING HEGEMONIC ASPIRATIONS
AND BRAZILIAN EMBASSIES IN THE HEMISPHERE RECEIVED "SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS" TO EMPHASIZE THE LIMITS ON BRAZILIAN
DIPLOMATIC ACTION. IN CONTRAST, SALLES CONTINUED, THIS
TIME BRAZIL IS KEEPING SILENT: "DIPLOMATS (I.E. BRAZILIAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS) AFFIRMED THAT THIS TIME THE
SECRETARY OF STATE WAS CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE ANY DIRECT
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRAZIL AND LATIN AMERICA...FOR
BRAZIL'S PART, THERE IS NO EXPLANATION TO GIVE...BRAZIL
DID NOT REQUEST PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ITS POSSIBILITIES
AS AN EMERGING POWER, AND IF KISSINGER THOUGHT HE SHOULD
EMPHASIZE THEM IN THIS TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, THIS
DECISION WAS HIS." NEWSWEEKLY VEJA MARCH 3 HAD SIMILAR
LINE NOTING THAT LA "RESENTMENTS" WERE EXPECTED IN
ADVANCE BY BOTH GOB AND USG AND REPORTING THAT BRAZILIAN
AMBASSADORS IN LA RECEIVED "ORDERS" NOT TO INVOLVE
THEMSELVES IN POLEMICS NOR TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS.

6. COMMENT: THE TWO EDITORIALS REFLECT GENERAL ATTITUDE
HERE TO THE EFFECT THAT BRAZIL'S SMALLER AND LESS FORTUNATE
NEIGHBORS ARE ENVOIOUS, SUSPICIOUS, AND RESENTFUL. IT
HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN A BASIC AIM OF BRAZILIAN FOREIGN
POLICY TO SEEK TO ALLAY THESE FEELINGS, AND DISAVOWALS OF
HEGEMONIC PRETENSIONS ARE STANDARD FARE IN ANY FORMAL
SPEECH; BRAZIL'S ASSISTANCE AND INTEGRATION EFFORTS WITH
ITS NEIGHBORS HAVE IN PART THE SAME PURPOSE. AT THE SAME
TIME, WE OFTEN DETECT IN THE BRAZILIAN ATTITUDE THE IDEA
THAT THE OTHER LA COUNTRIES' FEELINGS ARE INEVITABLE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BRASIL 01992 081431Z

NATURAL AND EVEN JUSTIFIED, AND THAT THEY SPRING IN
PART FROM HISPANIC-ROOTED AND OTHER COMPLEXES. THUS
EVEN AS BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS SEEK TO EASE THESE FEELINGS,
THEY SOMETIMES APPEAR RESIGNED--AND NOT UNCOMFORTABLY
SO--TO THEIR PERSISTENCE. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL01992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760087-0604
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760385/aaaacxim.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRASILIA 1687
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO LA CRITICISM OF US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BR, US, XM, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SILVEIRA, ANTONIO FRANCISCO AZEREDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006